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The New-Hampshire Historical Society

1823

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THE
ACT OF INCORPORATION,
CONSTITUTION, AND BY-LAWS,
OF THE
New-Hampshire Historical Society.

WITH
A LIST OF ARTICLES, ON WHICH THE SOCIETY WISH FOR
INFORMATION;
BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, &c. WANTED BY THE SOCIETY.



Concord:
PRINTED BY JACOB B. MOORE,
For the Society.
1823.

US 11507.8.2



ACT OF INCORPORATION.



State of New-Hampshire.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED
AND TWENTY-THREE.

*An Act to incorporate certain persons by the name
of the New-Hampshire Historical Society.*

WHEREAS the persons hereinafter named have associated for the laudable purpose of collecting and preserving such books and papers as may illustrate the early history of the State; and of acquiring and communicating a knowledge of the natural history, the botanical and mineralogical productions of the State; as well as for the general advancement of science and literature: and whereas the object of their association is of public utility, and deserves public encouragement: Therefore,

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened,* That Ichabod Bartlett, William Plumer, jun., Bennet Tyler, Jeremiah Smith, Jeremiah Mason, Richard Bartlett, James Bartlett, Jacob B. Moore, Andrew Peirce, William Smith, jun., and Nathaniel A. Haven, jun., with their associates, and such other persons as shall from time to time be admitted members of said association, according to such by-laws as the members of said association may establish, be, and they hereby are, created a body politic and corporate, and shall

forever hereafter continue a body politic and corporate, by the name of the *New-Hampshire Historical Society*, and for the purposes aforesaid ; and with all the powers, privileges, and liabilities incident to corporations of this nature.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the said corporation may receive and take by gift, grant, devise, or otherwise, and hold, possess and enjoy, exclusive of the building or buildings which may be actually occupied and used for the safe keeping of their books, papers and records, and of their cabinets of natural history, and mineralogy, and exclusive of their books, papers and cabinets aforesaid, real and personal estate, the yearly value of which shall not exceed three thousand dollars ; provided always, that the estate aforesaid be appropriated for the purposes aforesaid.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the said corporation shall have full power and authority to determine at what place their library and cabinets shall be established ; at what times and places their meetings shall be holden ; and in what manner the members shall be notified of such meetings ; to elect from among the members of said corporation such officers, with such powers and duties, as they shall judge expedient ; and also to ordain and enact any by-laws for the government of said corporation, provided the same be not repugnant to the constitution and laws of this State.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the said Ichabod Bartlett, William Smith, jun. and Nathaniel A. Haven, jun., or any two of them, shall have power to call the first meeting of said cor-

poration, at such time and place, and may notify the members of said association in such manner, as they may deem expedient.

STATE OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

In the House of Representatives, June 11, 1823.

The foregoing bill, having had three several readings, passed to be enacted.

Sent up for concurrence,

ANDREW PEIRCE, *Speaker.*

In Senate, June 12, 1823.

This bill, having had three several readings, was enacted.

DAVID L. MORRIL, *President.*

Approved, June 13, 1823.

LEVI WOODBURY, *Governor.*

A true copy—

Attest, SAMUEL SPARHAWK, *Secretary.*

THE CONSTITUTION

Of the New-Hampshire Historical Society.

—o—

1. The object of the New-Hampshire Historical Society shall be to discover, procure, and preserve whatever may relate to the natural, civil, literary, and ecclesiastical history of the United States in general, and of this State in particular.

2. The Society shall consist of resident and honorary members, the former to be persons residing in the State of New-Hampshire; the latter, persons residing elsewhere. The number of resident members shall not exceed fifty; the number of honorary members shall not exceed the number of the resident.

3. The election of members shall be by ballot at the annual meetings. No member shall hereafter be elected by less than six votes; and, in all cases, the votes of two-thirds of the members present shall be necessary to a choice.

4. Each member (honorary members excepted, with whom it shall be optional) shall pay, before the annual meeting next following his election, the sum of five dollars. The society may assess taxes at the annual meetings, on each resident member, not exceeding three dollars in one year. Any person neglecting to pay the aforesaid sum of five dollars, or any tax, for the term of two years, shall cease to be a member.

8 *Constitution of the Historical Society.*

5. The annual meeting of the Society shall be holden at Concord on the second Wednesday in June. Other meetings may be held at such times and places as the Society may from time to time direct. It shall be the duty of the President, and in his absence, of one of the Vice Presidents, upon the application of three members, to call a special meeting of the Society, of which notice shall be given in a newspaper printed in Concord, and another printed in Portsmouth, at least fifteen days before the meeting.

6. The officers of the society, to be elected at the annual meeting and by ballot, shall be—a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, and a Librarian, who shall hold their offices for the term of one year, and until others are elected in their places ; provided, that the first election of officers under this Constitution shall be made at such time and place as the Society may direct.

7. The Constitution may be amended at any annual meeting, as the Society shall deem proper, by the votes of two-thirds of the members present ; provided, notice of the proposed amendment shall be given in writing, and entered on the journal at the preceding annual meeting.

**A true copy of the Constitution of the Historical Society,
adopted June 13, 1823.**

ATTEST....

JOHN KELLY, *Rec. Sec'y.*

THE BY-LAWS

Of the New-Hampshire Historical Society.

ARTICLE I.

SECTION 1. At the meeting in June, there shall annually be elected, by ballot, a Standing Committee, a committee to settle with the Treasurer, and, when necessary, a committee to superintend the publications of the Society ; provided that the first election of said committees may be made at such time and place as the Society may direct. And if the Society shall deem it necessary, they may, at any meeting, appoint other committees, and designate the duties to be performed by them.

2. When less than six members are present at any meeting, the consent of two-thirds shall be necessary to pass any vote, except to adjourn.

3. At the request of any three members present, any motion shall be deferred to another meeting, for further consideration, before it is finally determined, and shall then be taken up.

4. The President, when present, shall preside in the meeting ; when he is absent, one of the Vice-Presidents ; but in their absence, the Society shall elect a President *pro tempore*, who shall then preside.

5. The Librarian shall be keeper of the museum.

10 *By-Laws of the Historical Society.*

6. No alteration or addition to the by-laws shall be made, unless there are eight members present, and two-thirds of those present vote in favor of the same.

ARTICLE II.

Laws, relating to the Library and Museum.

SECTION 1. All books and manuscripts which shall be presented to the library, and every curiosity presented to the museum, when accepted by the Society, shall be with thanks to the donor.

2. Every present received shall be recorded, and an account of it rendered to the next meeting of the Society.

3. All books and other articles belonging to the Society shall be appraised, and the price of each article shall be mentioned in the catalogue.

4. All pamphlets shall be bound, except duplicates, which shall be kept by themselves, and triplicates shall be exchanged.

5. All manuscripts shall be distinctly marked and numbered, and kept in cases of paper; which shall also be numbered, and the contents of each registered.

6. A printed ticket shall be pasted on the inside of the cover of each book, signifying that it is the property of the Society, and also the name of the donor, if it be a present.

7. Newspapers and maps shall not be taken out of the library, except by the publishing committee.

8. No book or manuscript shall be loaned or taken from the library without the consent of the

Librarian, who shall take a receipt from the borrower to return the same undamaged within four weeks, or pay a forfeiture of three times the appraised value of such book or manuscript, as the same is appraised in the catalogue aforesaid. A member shall not have more than three books at a time, unless, by special leave obtained by vote of the Society. He shall not retain any volume longer than four weeks, but may renew the same once; after which he shall not immediately have the same without special leave from the Standing Committee. Provided this shall not prevent the Publishing Committee from taking out of the library, with the knowledge of the Librarian, as many books and papers as they may want.

9. An application in writing, left with the Librarian, shall secure any volume or set for a fortnight after it may be returned to the library; and if more than one such application be made, they shall be answered in the order of their respective dates.

10. If books or manuscripts be requested for public uses, or for the peculiar benefit of persons whom the Society is disposed to oblige, the application shall be made to the Librarian, through the medium of some member, who shall be responsible, in a written obligation, for the return of each article borrowed, within such time as shall be stipulated by the Librarian, not exceeding three months.

11. All persons who take books from the library, shall be answerable for any injury to the same, which shall be estimated by the Standing Committee.

12 *By-Laws of the Historical Society.*

12. The privilege of using the library shall be suspended, as it respects the person who neglects to pay any forfeiture, fine, or assessment of damages, longer than one month after he shall receive notice from the Librarian.

13. At each meeting of the Society, every member shall, in person, if present, and in writing, if absent, give an account of the books and manuscripts, or whatever article belonging to the Society, he may have in his possession.

ARTICLE III

Laws, relating to the Librarian and Keeper of the Museum.

SECTION 1. The Librarian and Keeper of the Museum, hereafter to be elected, shall annually give such security to the Society as the Standing Committee shall require, for the faithful performance of his trust ; the security to be deposited with the Recording Secretary.

2. He shall receive and have in his custody all books, papers, and productions of nature and art, the property of the Society, and which appertain to the library and museum. These he shall arrange in classes, and register in a book, with a proper description of each article, and frequently examine the whole, and keep them in good order.

3. He shall record in a book, to be provided for that purpose, every donation presented and accepted by him for the use of the Society, expressing the article given, the time, and name of the donor.

4. He shall communicate the thanks of the Society to each donor, for all articles presented and by him accepted for the use of the Society.

5. He shall, under the direction of the Standing Committee, bind the pamphlets in volumes ; and mark and number the manuscripts.

6. He shall paste a printed ticket in the inside of the cover of each book, signifying that it is the property of the Society, with the name of the donor, if it be a present.

7. He shall, at every annual meeting of the Society in June, present to the meeting a catalogue of all the books, manuscripts, and maps in the library, and curiosities in the museum, belonging to the Society.

ARTICLE IV.

Laws, relating to the Standing Committee.

SECTION 1. The Standing Committee shall recommend plans for promoting the objects of the Society ; digest and prepare business ; inquire for, and endeavor to obtain, on the best terms, manuscripts, books, and articles of curiosity, and solicit and receive donations for the Society.

2. They shall inspect the records, and inquire whether all the orders of the Society are carried into effect with precision and promptitude ; and also the library and museum, and make report of them to the annual meetings in June, and what books are particularly wanted.

3. They shall appraise all books and other articles belonging to the Society ; and the price of each shall be mentioned in the catalogue.

14 *By-Laws of the Historical Society.*

4. They shall aid the Librarian and Keeper of the museum, when he shall require it, in the arrangement of the books, pamphlets, maps, and manuscripts, and the articles belonging to the museum ; and especially attend to the preservation and binding of books and pamphlets.

5. They shall regulate all the common expenses of the Society ; make the necessary provision of such small articles as may be wanted ; draw upon the Treasurer for the payment thereof, and for all such sums as the Society may from time to time vote and appropriate for specific purposes.

6. They shall, when the state of the treasury will permit, direct the Treasurer to loan the money, belonging to the Society, on interest, taking sufficient security for its re-payment, or vest the money in such funds as will be safe and productive.

7. They shall, in case of the death, resignation, incapacity, or removal out of the State of New-Hampshire, of either of the Secretaries, or Treasurer, or Librarian and Keeper of the museum, take charge of the official books, papers, and effects belonging to the office so vacated, one or more of the committee giving a receipt for the same ; which books and property they may deliver to some member of the Society, whom they may appoint to fill the office until the next meeting of the Society, when there shall be a new choice.

ARTICLE V.

Laws, relating to the Committee of Publications.

SECTION 1. When the funds of the Society will defray the expense, and sufficient materials are collected for the purpose, the Committee of Publications are authorized to make such publications, from time to time, as they shall deem expedient.

2. The contributions for such publications shall be voluntary ; and of those made, such only shall be printed as the committee shall direct.

ARTICLE VI.

Laws, relating to the Recording Secretary.

SECTION 1. The Recording Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Society, record in a book, provided for that purpose, all their proceedings, and keep the records in his custody ; and he shall keep all letters he receives respecting the Society, and the securities given by the Treasurer, and Librarian and Keeper of the museum, and the same preserve on file, under the direction of the Standing Committee.

2. He shall record the names of all the members of the Society, and the time of their admission ; and transmit to each of them, as soon as may be, a printed copy of the Act of Incorporation, the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society.

3. He shall notify every officer whom the Society shall hereafter elect, unless such officer was present at the time of his election.

16 *By-Laws of the Historical Society.*

4. He shall notify all meetings of the Society, annual and special, in one newspaper printed in Concord, and another printed in Portsmouth, fifteen days previous to the day of meeting; in which notification, the hour and place of meeting shall be designated; but any neglect in this particular shall not prevent the annual meeting in June, or annul its proceedings.

ARTICLE VII.

Laws, relating to the Corresponding Secretary.

SECTION 1. The Corresponding Secretary shall receive, and, at the next meeting after, read all communications made to the Society; he shall conduct and manage all the correspondence of the Society.

2. He shall, in books provided for the purpose, keep copies of all letters written by him for the Society, and deliver over the same, with the letter books, when filled, to the Librarian.

ARTICLE VIII.

Laws, relating to the Treasurer and Committee to settle with him.

SECTION 1. The Treasurer, hereafter to be elected, shall annually give such security to the Society, as the standing committee shall require, for the faithful performance of his trust; the security to be deposited with the Recording Secretary.

2. He shall give seasonable notice to each member of the Society of each and every assessment

By-Laws of the Historical Society. 17

or tax, the time when it was raised, and request them to pay it ; and also give notice to such other persons as may otherwise be indebted to the Society, whenever it may be necessary to collect such debts.

3. He shall receive all monies and evidence of property belonging to the Society ; pay all orders of the Standing Committee drawn by them on him ; keep a record of his receipts and expenditures, and exhibit the same, when requested to, and settle with the committee appointed for that purpose.

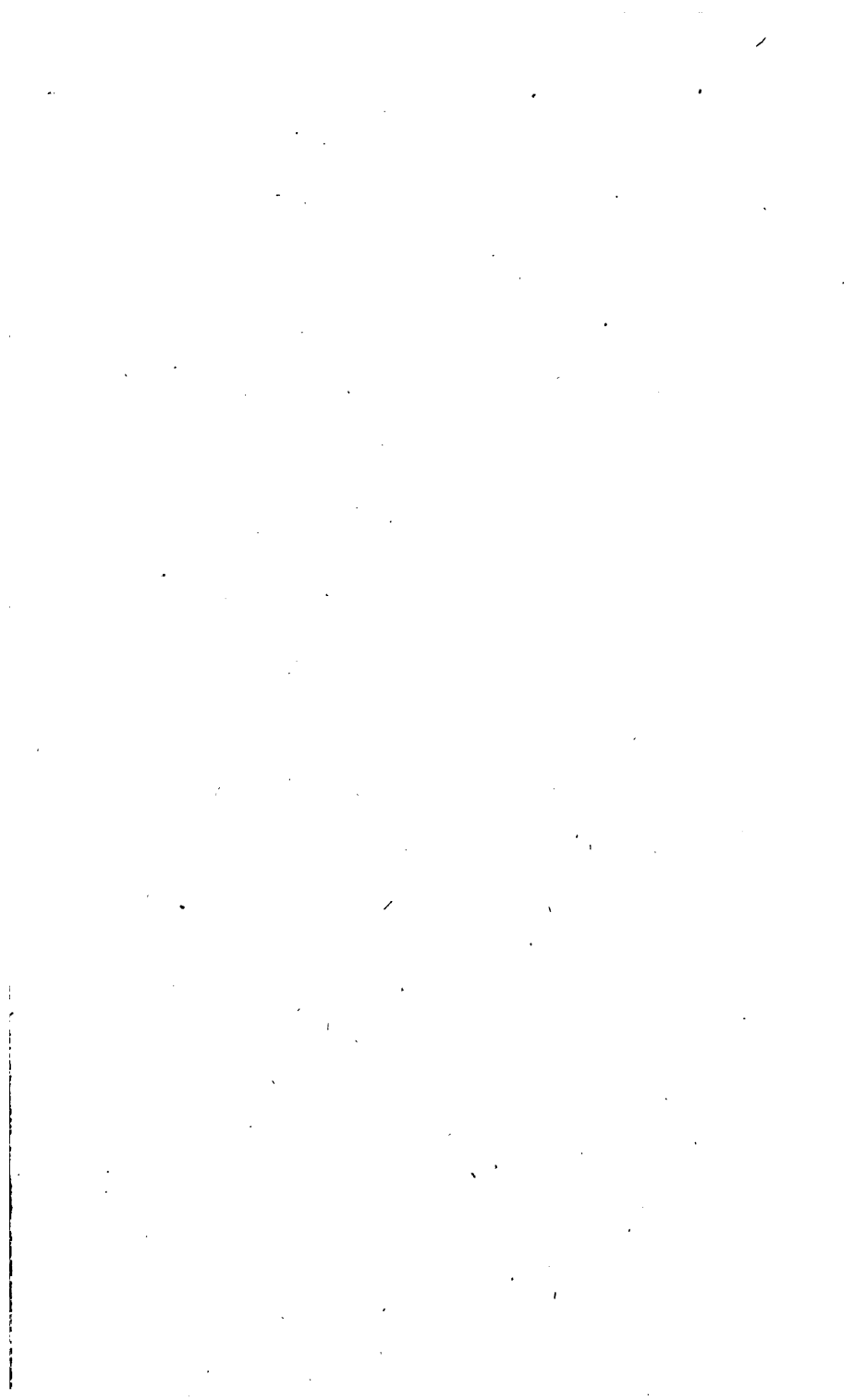
4. He shall, under the direction of the Standing Committee, when the state of the treasury will permit, loan the money, belonging to the Society, on interest ; taking sufficient security for its re-payment, or vest it in such funds as will be safe and productive.

5. The committee to settle with the Treasurer shall annually examine his accounts and vouchers, and make a report thereon to the Society every year at their June meeting, exhibiting a full and particular account of the state of the treasury and funds belonging to the Society.

A true copy of the By-Laws adopted by the New-Hampshire Historical Society, Sept. 17, 1823.

ATTEST....

JOHN KELLY, *Rec. Sec'y.*



Articles on which the Society wish for Information.

Among the subjects to which the members of the New-Hampshire Historical Society will direct their attention, and on which they request information, may be enumerated the following.

1. The circumstances attending the early settlements formed in New-Hampshire; the history of the settlement of each town; the number and condition of the first settlers; the names of the principal persons and their biography; the contests with the aboriginals, and all the important events which have occurred since the first settlement.

2. An account of ecclesiastical transactions;—the time when the churches of different religious denominations were formed; the names of all the ministers who have had pastoral charges; the dates of their settlement and removal, whether by death or otherwise; the name of the college at which they were educated, the year, and their literary publications.

3. The time when schools and other seminaries of learning were instituted; their funds and patrons;—the different literary publications by residents of the several towns; the time and place when and where printed; the form and number of pages. Under this article may be comprised all information relating to libraries and the publication of newspapers.

4. Information concerning the Indian tribes inhabiting different parts of the state; their number and condition when first visited by the whites; their trades, disputes, wars, and treaties, either among themselves, or with the white people; their character, customs and general history;—the Indian names of mountains, rivers, lakes, and every Indian word which can be recovered.

5. Any remarkable laws, customs, or usages, either local or general at early periods of our colonial establishment; all ancient documents and manuscript letters illustrative of the habits of the early settlers.

6. Records of the state of the atmosphere; the influence of the climate and seasons on the human constitution; observations on diseases; accurate bills of mortality, shewing the number of deaths each month, the sex, age, disease;—instances of longevity over 90 years.

7. Descriptions, drawings, or other communications concerning ancient fortifications, caverns, mountains, or any natural curiosities, together with minute information concerning the dates of their discovery, or of any remarkable events respecting them,

and in general, every fact which may throw light on their origin and history.

8. Topographical descriptions of the several towns, including an account of the mountains, rivers, ponds, animals, vegetable productions; their mineralogy and geological appearances.

9. Copies of the early records of the four first towns settled in the state, viz., Portsmouth, Dover, Exeter and Hampton, would probably furnish many interesting facts, and would be highly acceptable to the Society.

Books, Pamphlets, &c., wanted by the Society.

In order to promote the objects for which the Historical Society was instituted, the members are anxious to collect the materials for the civil and ecclesiastical history of the country. Among the Books, &c., which the Society wish to collect and preserve, may be mentioned—

Every publication, of whatever description, issuing from the press in New-Hampshire; and also in other states.

Copies of rare books in the Civil, or Ecclesiastical History of this State, or of the United States.

Books of any kind, printed in this or other countries, which may be worthy of preservation.

Sermons, On the discovery of America.

On the completion of one century from the discovery or settlement of any state, town, or other place in the United States.

Delivered before the General Court.

At the anniversary conventions of the clergy, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Congregational or Baptist.

On annual and special Fasts and Thanksgivings.

To militia companies or to troops in camp.

On victory or defeat in war.

On the return of peace.

On remarkable events, as fires, earthquakes, epidemick sickness, &c.

At town meetings and on other popular occasions.

Orations, Sermons, or Poems, On the anniversary of the first landing of our ancestors at Plymouth.

On the anniversary of the 5th of March.

On the anniversary of the 4th of July.

Books, &c. wanted by the Society. 21

Orations, Sermons, or Poems, On the death of eminent characters in church or state.
Before any literary society.

Journals, Laws, Resolves and Protests, Of Congresses.
Of Assemblies, Conventions, and other legislative and deliberative bodies.

Conferences and Treaties of public Commissioners, appointed to treat with Indians.

Tax Acts of an older date than 1775.

Proclamations by authority, and other single printed sheets.

Proceedings of Episcopal conventions, Ecclesiastical councils, Presbyteries, Synods, General Assemblies, Baptist associations; Circular Letters of the societies of Friends; and of other denominations of christians.

Indian exploits, speeches, anecdotes, &c.

Narratives, Of battles with the Indians.

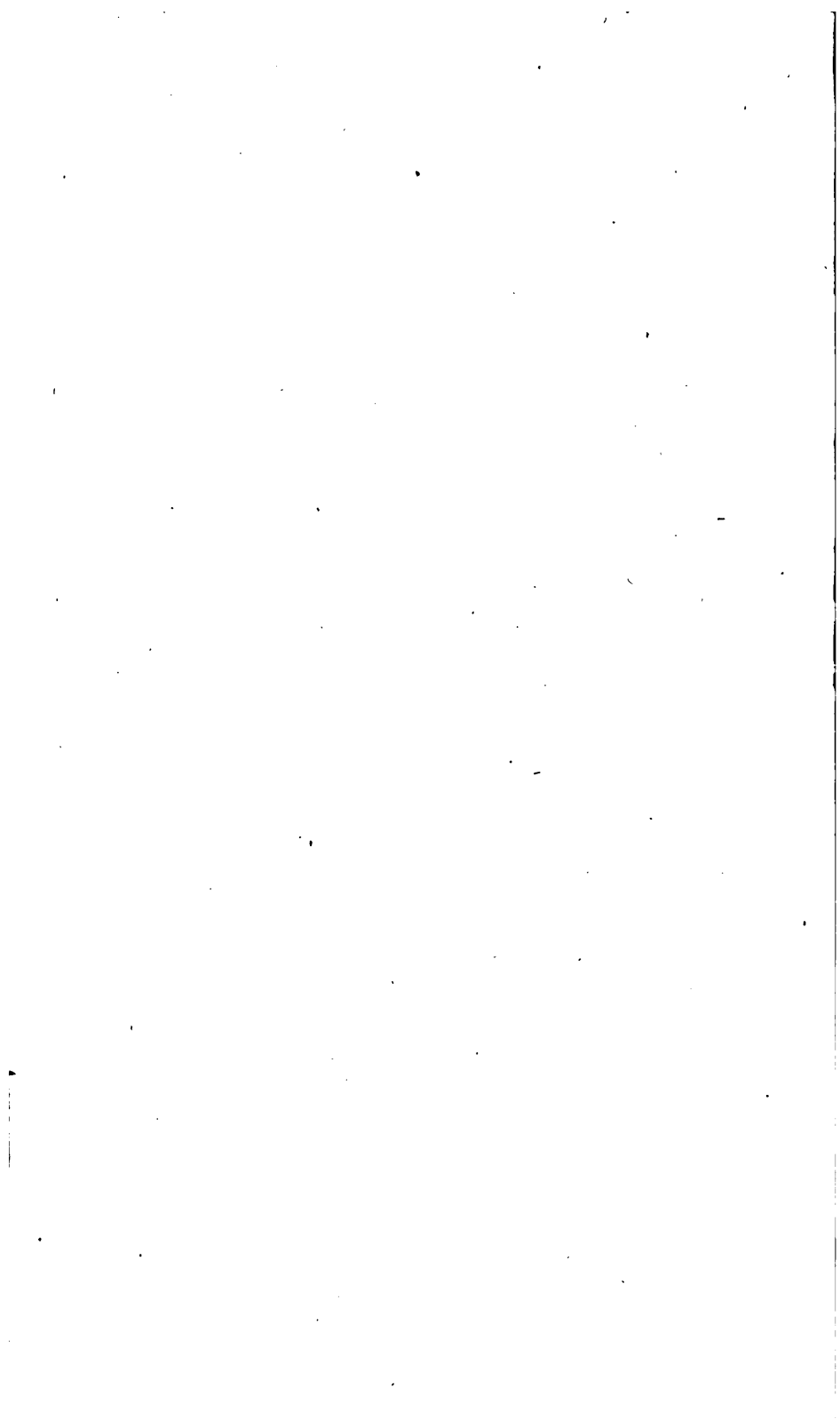
Of captives, their exploits, sufferings, escapes, &c.

Of missionaries and itinerant preachers of all denominations.

Journals, Of voyagers and travellers, for discovery, curiosity, or other causes.

Minutes, or other doings of *political clubs*.

Magazines, museums, newspapers, &c.



ALPHABETICAL LIST
*Of the Resident Members of the New-Hampshire
Historical Society.*

[Those followed with || are Members of the American Antiquarian Society—those with † are Corresponding Members of the Massachusetts Historical Society.]

Benjamin Abbot, LL. D. || of Exeter.
Ebenezer Adams, Esq. || of Hanover.
Nathaniel Adams, Esq. || of Portsmouth.
David Barker, jun. Esq. of Rochester.
Hon. Ichabod Bartlett, of Portsmouth.
James Bartlett, Esq. of Dover.
Richard Bartlett, Esq. of Concord.
Rev. Charles Burroughs, of Portsmouth.
Peter Chadwick, Esq. of Exeter.
Charles W. Cutter, Esq. of Dover.
John Farmer, Esq. ||† of Concord.
Asa Freeman, Esq. of Dover.
Charles B. Haddock, A. M. of Hanover.
Nathaniel A. Haven, jun. Esq. † of Portsmouth.
Hosea Hildreth, A. M. of Exeter.
John Kelly, Esq. || of Northwood.
George Kent, Esq. of Concord.
Mr. Alexander Ladd, of Portsmouth.
Hon. Jeremiah Mason, LL. D. of Portsmouth.
Stephen Mitchell, Esq. of Durham.
Mr. Jacob B. Moore, || of Concord.
Parker Noyes, Esq. of Salisbury.
Rev. Nathan Parker, D. D. of Portsmouth.
Oliver W. B. Peabody, Esq. of Exeter.
Hon. Andrew Peirce, of Dover.
Hon. William Plumer, ||† of Epping.
Hon. William Plumer, jun. of Epping.
Rev. Israel W. Putnam, of Portsmouth.
Hon. Jeremiah Smith, LL. D. || of Exeter.
William Smith, jun. Esq. of Exeter.
Rev. Bennet Tyler, D. D. of Hanover.
Gen. Timothy Upham, of Portsmouth.
His Exc. Levi Woodbury, LL. D. of Portsmouth.

Officers of the Society.

—♦♦♦♦—
PRESIDENT.

Hon. WILLIAM PLUMER, Epping.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

His Exc. LEVI WOODBURY, LL. D. Portsmouth.

Rev. BENNET TYLER, D. D. President Dart. College.

RECORDING SECRETARY.

JOHN KELLY, Esq. Northwood.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

NATHANIEL A. HAVEN, jun. Esq. Portsmouth.

TREASURER.

GEORGE KENT, Esq. Concord.

LIBRARIAN.

Mr. JACOB B. MOORE, Concord.

STANDING COMMITTEE.

NATHANIEL ADAMS, Esq. Portsmouth.

Rev. NATHAN PARKER, D. D. do.

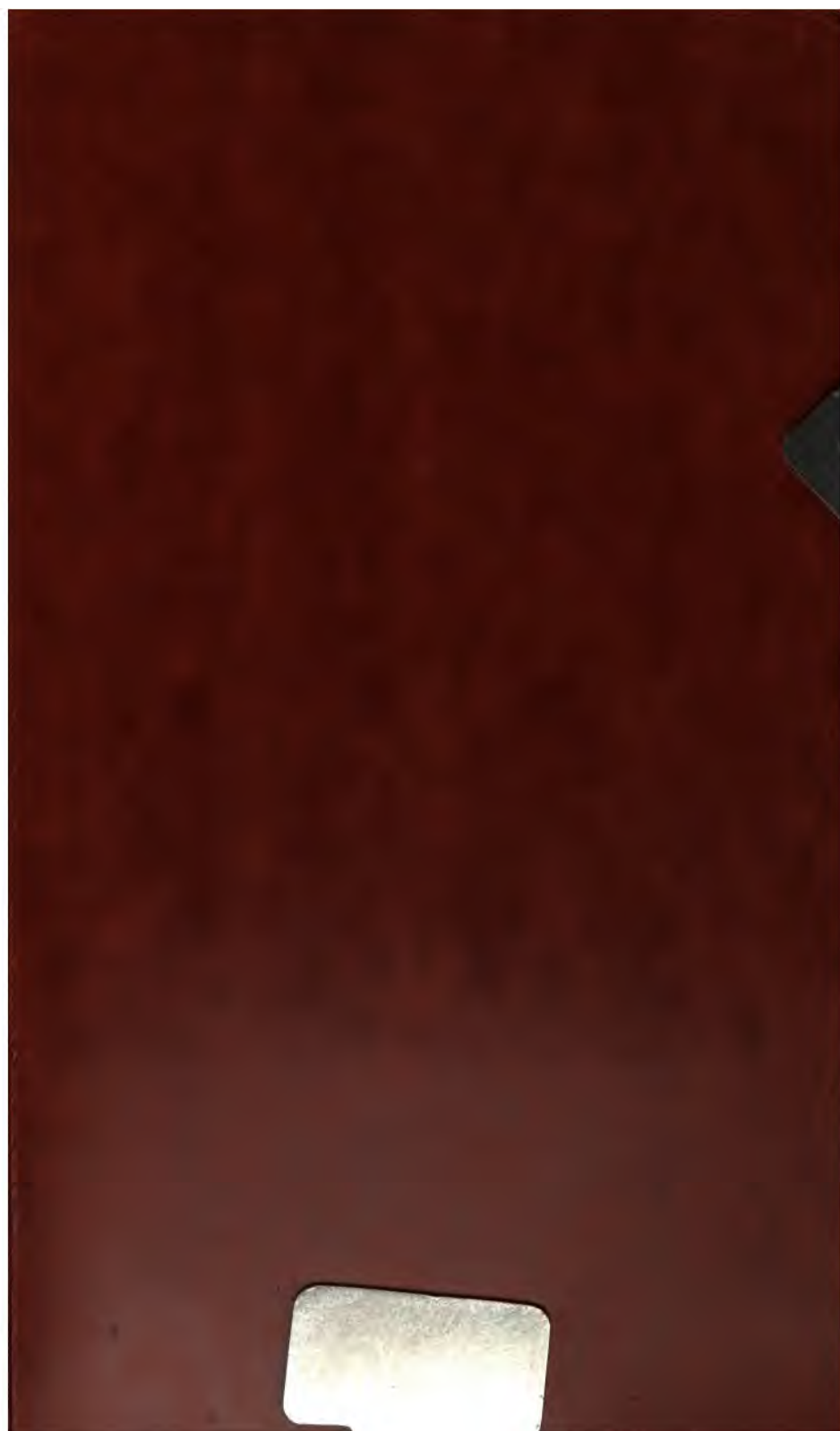
Prof. HOSEA HILDRETH, Exeter.

COMMITTEE OF PUBLICATION.

Hon. WILLIAM PLUMER, jun. Epping.

PARKER NOYES, Esq. Salisbury.

JOHN FARMER, Esq. Concord.



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